



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

October 7, 2014

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire fee title to 158 acres from the Five Valleys Land Trust, as an addition to FWP's adjacent 34,573-acre Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located south of Tarkio in Mineral County. The WMA addition would help protect important floodplain and upland habitat for sensitive species such as bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and Canada lynx, as well as numerous game and nongame species. The acquisition would include ½ mile of mainstem Fish Creek, additionally protecting the stream's associated wetland and riparian areas that also support important wildlife travel corridors.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Alberton on October 21st (Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m. at the Alberton Community Center (701 Railroad Ave) to discuss the proposed acquisition, answer questions, and take public comment.

The EA may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Public Notices," beginning October 8).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 7, 2014.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its December meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Arnold", written over a horizontal line.

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr